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EVERY ONE THAT HAS
ICE, WOOD, LUMBER

or the like to get will need tools for the work.
We have the largest and best assortment that
we have ever had, and can supply your every want.

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BENNINGTON - VERMONT

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FRANK E. HOWE, Editor and Pub.

Wednesday, December 29, 1915.

In planning for preparedness in this country the people should not be misled. At the present time the greatest business affiliation in the country is the community of interests engaged in selling war munitions and supplies to the allies. They are naturally and properly partisans of the allies and hostile to the Germans for it is from the allies that they are reaping the greatest money profit in the history of the world. This affiliation of American business does not want the United States to get into the war but does want to stir up agitation and feeling, and fear and jealousy to a point so that when the European war ends this country will embark on a wild career of buying war munitions so that the flowing stream of profit for the manufacturers will not be interrupted. The makers of war munitions are men like the rest of us and their heads have been turned by the fortune that has come to them just as your and ours would be under similar circumstances. For the time being they are drunk with greed and wild with avarice. The problem that faces congress right now is one of the greatest in the history of the United States. The problem is to place this country on a basis of military and naval security without permitting the treasury to be looted by the forces of organized extortion. Congress has no easy job.

It is said that a diplomatic rupture with Austria is surely coming. A diplomatic break, unless it is followed by war, is always a blunder because it puts the nation where it cannot serve its own citizens or do justice by its neighbors. If the United States is prepared to declare war on Austria over the Ancona incident it is a proper step to sever diplomatic relations. Otherwise it is a blunder. It would, however, be on a par with our three years failure to establish order in Mexico, our failure to compel respect for American lives, the American flag and American commerce by Germany and England. It will be a typical diplomatic triumph of the present administration.

War, like some other things, is often a case of bluff. In every great war opposing commanders have often tried to bluff the enemy. At the present time there is some reason to think that the present situation around Saloniki is more advertised than the facts warrant. In fact it looks as though England and Germany may be both bluffing there. England is weak in Egypt and in India and wants no Teutonic drive toward either. By gathering a considerable force at Saloniki England hopes to threaten the German line of communication between the Danube and Constantinople and keep the Germans from crossing the Bosphorus. On the other hand the Germans by massing on the Greek frontier and threatening Saloniki seek to compel England and France to send more troops to Greece instead of to the battle line in France. Germany must expect another advance by Russia from Riga or into Galicia with the opening of spring and seemingly cannot afford the loss and risk of attacking the allies in Greece. It is to be doubted if either side plans or expects anything decisive at Saloniki. In the meantime the final crisis of the war comes slowly nearer. The great empire of Russia has been overrated in its numerical strength. The empire has a population of 200 millions, but of these more than a quarter are Mongols, and half savage races from eastern and southern Asia. Nearly another quarter are Poles, Finns, Lithuanians and others whose loyalty is suspected by the Russian ruling class. The available population of Russia from which recruits can be gathered probably has not more than eighty millions and Russia has already lost toward four million men. Russia cannot increase her army any easier than the other belligerents and has far fewer available men than Great Britain. Russia was the first of the nations at war to call the recruits of the 1917 classes, and the Russian empire is being combed with a fine tooth comb for more men. She is short of officers and her new recruits are being trained by Italian, French, British and possibly Japanese officers. As soon as her new levies can be hammered into shape Russia will begin a new offensive and, with the experience of the past year before them, the English and French will at the same time go up against the German line in France and Flanders. The end of the war cannot be said to be in sight but the stage is being set for the final colossal struggle and it will not be at Saloniki.

Useful Hint.
When in doubt use simplified spelling and people will think you are learned.—Macon Telegraph.

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TO SUCCOR STARVING SERBS

Americans Confer with Italian Official on Means to Give Aid.

Rome, Dec. 27.—Hugh Griffen and Charles Carroll, representing the American Relief Clearing House in Paris and Dr. Edward W. Ryan, chief of the American Red Cross in Serbia, were received at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. They were accompanied by Thomas Nelson Page, the American Ambassador.

Arrangements were made by the Americans to take supplies into Serbia and Albania, the appalling destitution of whose people has been rendered worse by the fact that Serbian money is being refused, although the Bank of France accepts it.

**OLD AND NEW WAY
TO TREAT CATARRH**

Breathing a Germ Killing Air Endorsed by Actual Results

The discovery of Hyomei has wrought a wonderful change in the treatment of catarrh.

Prior to three years ago the medicines ordinarily employed in the cure of this disease were drugs, sprays, lotions, etc. In some instances they benefited, but the improvement was not lasting.

With Hyomei you take into the air passages of your throat and head a balsamic air that goes into the minutest cells, and should effectually kill all germs and microbes of catarrh. Its purpose is to enter the blood with the oxygen, killing the germs in the blood, and restore health to the whole system. Many astonishing testimonials have been received from those who have been helped by Hyomei.

A complete outfit is inexpensive and sufficient Hyomei for several weeks' treatment.

Perhaps the strongest evidence that can be given to doubters, is the fact that W. L. Gokay has so much faith in Hyomei that he sells every package under a positive guarantee to refund the money if it does not relieve.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank of Bennington Vermont will be held at their banking rooms, on Tuesday, the 11th day of January, 1916, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, for the election of five directors for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such business as may come before the meeting.

L. A. Graves, cashier.
Bennington, Vt., Dec. 9th, 1915.

A man should try to be as good as his wife and children think he is. One long step in the right direction is providing good life insurance for their protection. National Life Ins. Co. of Vt. (Mutual.) Earle S. Kinsley, General Agent. Mead Building, Rutland, Vt. Adv.

Deafness Cannot Be Cured
by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a running ear or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.
F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio.
Sold by Druggists, 75c.
Take Santa Family Pills for constipation.

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CONSIDERING**

Genuine Shur-On Eye Glasses, Lenses Fitted to Your Eyes. Extra Fine Eye Glass Coating. Your Name Printed Thereon. Special Holiday Price only \$1.00

De Witt E. Lewis
O. D., Oph. B.
Registered and Licensed Optician.
NEXT V. M. C. A. MAIN STREET

LOGS WANTED

200,000 feet white birch, yellow birch, maple bass wood and poplar.
H. C. WHITE CO.
North Bennington, Vt.

\$36,000.00

Paid on Dec. 15, 1915, to 1400 Members of Our Xmas Club

You Will Need Money For Christmas

HERE IS

AN EASY WAY TO GET IT A SURE WAY TO HAVE IT

Join Our Christmas Club Which Starts Dec. 27, 1915

In Class 2, pay 2c the 1st week; 4c the 2d week; 6c the 3d week, and so on for 50 weeks and we will mail you a check two weeks before Christmas for \$25.50.

Or in Class 5, pay 5c the 1st week; 10c the second week; 15c the 3d week, and so on, and we will mail you a check two weeks before Christmas for \$63.75.

You May Reverse the Order of Payments If You Wish to Do So

For instance, in Class 5 going up, the payments start with 5c and end with \$2.50. If you desire to do so, you may start with \$2.50 the first week and pay 5c less each week until the last week's payment will be 5c. You may do the same in Class 2.

Should You Prefer to Pay an Equal Amount Each Week You Can Do So

In Class 50, the payments are 50c each week for 50 weeks and two weeks before Christmas you will receive a check for \$25.00.

In Class 100, the payments are \$1.00 each week for 50 weeks and two weeks before Christmas you will receive a check for \$50.00.

In Class 200, the payments are \$2.00 each week for 50 weeks and two weeks before Christmas you will receive a check for \$100.00.

Payments Must Be Made Every Week or May Be Made in Advance for Any Number of Weeks

Can you think of an easier way to provide money for Christmas presents? Join yourself—get everyone else to join. Show this to your friends and get them to join.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME TO JOIN

The Christmas Club opens Monday, December 27, 1915, and you can join any time from Dec. 25 to Jan 22, 1916. Call and let us tell you all about our plan.

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Shows how small sums of money grow under our uniform weekly payment plan. Club starts December 27, 1915, for fifty weeks.

\$2.00 each week pays, \$101.49

\$1.00 " " " \$50.75

.50 " " " \$25.37

.25 " " " \$12.69

NO CHARGE TO JOIN!



CHECKING ACCOUNTS

Business and Family Accounts Welcome

Assets over \$1,200,000

Make 1916 a Thrifty Year

SAVINGS DEPARTMENT

Three per cent interest compounding three times yearly, January, May and September 1st. An account here provides ready money and 1 per cent interest added every four months.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK, Bennington, Vt.